Amendment and Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
Applicant: Shell S. Simpson et al.
Serial No.: 10/001,721
Filed: October 30, 2001
Docket No.: 10007661-1
Title: WEB-BASED IMAGING SERVICE PROVIDING RESERVATION

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 and 11 without prejudice.

Please add claims 25-29.

Please amend claims 2, 3, 4, 10, 12, and 21-24 as follows:

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 21 wherein said first processing
job is stored in a medium selected from the group consisting of a hard disk and an image
store associated with said user's identity.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 21 wherein said setting said first
deferred start time includes avoiding conflict with unavailable deferred start times of said
production device.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 21 further comprising estimating
resources required to process said first processing job using said production device with said
selected production options.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising reserving quantities
of said resources required to process said first processing job during said deferral period.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said reserved resources
required to process said first processing job are monitored during said deferral period.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein during said deferral period a warning
message is displayed whenever any of said reserved resources is depleted to a quantity not
greater than said reserved quantity of said reserved resource.

2

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8.   (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein during said deferral period said reserved resources are reported as if said reserved quantities of said reserved resources had already been consumed.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein during said deferral period said warning message is removed if said reserved resources are replenished above said reserved quantity.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 21 further comprising interrupting an existing processing job having a first arrived at priority, that is currently using a production device, such that another processing job can use said production device, said another processing job having a second arrived at priority different from said first arrived at priority.

11.   (Cancelled)

12.   (Currently Amended) The destination service of ~~claim 11~~ claim 23 further operable to estimate resources required to process said first imaging information with said selected production options.

13.   (Previously Presented) The destination service of claim 12 further operable to reserve until said deferred start time said required resources in quantities sufficient to process said first imaging information with said selected production options.

14.   (Original) The destination service of claim 13 further operable to monitor until said deferred start time said required resources and to display a warning message whenever any of said reserved resources is depleted to a quantity not greater than said reserved quantity of said reserved resource.

15-20. (Cancelled)

3

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1~~ A method of relieving competition between processing jobs sharing a production device, said method comprising:

accessing from a user's browser a destination service representing said production device;

retrieving imaging information of said user by said destination service;

selecting among production options provided by said destination service for determining a first processing job to process said imaging information using said production device;

estimating, based on said imaging information and said selected production options for said first processing job, a processing time required to process said first processing job using said production device;

providing said user an option of reserving a start time at which deferred processing of said first processing job using said production device is to occur;

if said user opts to reserve the start time, setting a first deferred start time, storing said first processing job during a deferral period until said first deferred start time, and processing said first processing job using said production device at said first deferred start time;

if processing of a second processing job is requested during a time period conflicting with processing of said first processing job based on the first deferred start time and the estimated processing time of the first processing job, providing an option of reserving a second deferred start time at which deferred processing of the second processing job is to occur, the second deferred start time avoiding conflict with the processing of said first processing job; and

if the estimated processing time of the first processing job is greater than an established threshold, providing an alternate production device for processing of the first processing job,

wherein if the estimated processing time of the first processing job is greater than the established threshold, enabling the user to select differing production options for said first processing job, and reevaluating, based on said imaging information and said differing production options, a reevaluated processing time required to process said first processing job.

4

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22.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1~~ A method of relieving competition between processing jobs sharing a production device, said method comprising:

accessing from a user's browser a destination service representing said production device;

retrieving imaging information of said user by said destination service;

selecting among production options provided by said destination service for determining a first processing job to process said imaging information using said production device;

estimating, based on said imaging information and said selected production options for said first processing job, a processing time required to process said first processing job using said production device;

providing said user an option of reserving a start time at which deferred processing of said first processing job using said production device is to occur;

if said user opts to reserve the start time, setting a first deferred start time, storing said first processing job during a deferral period until said first deferred start time, and processing said first processing job using said production device at said first deferred start time;

if processing of a second processing job is requested during a time period conflicting with processing of said first processing job based on the first deferred start time and the estimated processing time of the first processing job, providing an option of reserving a second deferred start time at which deferred processing of the second processing job is to occur, the second deferred start time avoiding conflict with the processing of said first processing job; and

if the estimated processing time of the first processing job is greater than an established threshold, providing an alternate production device for processing of the first processing job.

wherein if the estimated processing time of the first processing job is greater than the established threshold, enabling the user to allow interruption of processing of said first processing job if processing of the second processing job is requested during processing of said first processing job.

5

23.   (Currently Amended) ~~The destination service of claim 11 further operable to,~~ A destination service representing a production device, said destination service operable to:

download content into a browser;

retrieve first imaging information;

select, under user interactive control via said content, from among production options for processing said first imaging information using said production device;

estimate, based on said first imaging information and said selected production options, a processing time required to process said first imaging information using said production device;

provide an option of reserving a first deferred start time at which deferred processing of said first imaging information is to occur;

if the first deferred start time is reserved, implement deferred processing of said first imaging information using said production device at said first deferred start time;

if processing of second imaging information using said production device is requested and processing of said second imaging information conflicts with processing of said first imaging information based on the first deferred start time and the estimated processing time of the first imaging information, provide an option of reserving a second deferred start time at which deferred processing of said second imaging information is to occur, the second deferred start time avoiding conflict with the processing of said first imaging information;

if the estimated processing time of the first imaging information is greater than an established threshold, provide an alternate production device for processing of the first imaging information; and

if the estimated processing time of the first imaging information is greater than the established threshold, enable a user to select differing production options for processing said first imaging information, and reevaluate, based on said first imaging information and said differing production options, a reevaluated processing time required to process said first imaging information.

6

24.   (Currently Amended) ~~The destination service of claim 11 further operable to,~~ A destination service representing a production device, said destination service operable to:

download content into a browser;

retrieve first imaging information;

select, under user interactive control via said content, from among production options for processing said first imaging information using said production device;

estimate, based on said first imaging information and said selected production options, a processing time required to process said first imaging information using said production device;

provide an option of reserving a first deferred start time at which deferred processing of said first imaging information is to occur;

if the first deferred start time is reserved, implement deferred processing of said first imaging information using said production device at said first deferred start time;

if processing of second imaging information using said production device is requested and processing of said second imaging information conflicts with processing of said first imaging information based on the first deferred start time and the estimated processing time of the first imaging information, provide an option of reserving a second deferred start time at which deferred processing of said second imaging information is to occur, the second deferred start time avoiding conflict with the processing of said first imaging information;

if the estimated processing time of the first imaging information is greater than an established threshold, provide an alternate production device for processing of the first imaging information; and

if the estimated processing time of the first imaging information is greater than the established threshold, enable a user to allow interruption of processing of said first imaging information if processing of the second imaging information is requested during processing of said first imaging information.

7

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25.   (New) The method of claim 22 wherein said first processing job is stored in a medium selected from the group consisting of a hard disk and an image store associated with said user's identity.

26.   (New) The method of claim 22 wherein said setting said first deferred start time includes avoiding conflict with unavailable deferred start times of said production device.

27.   (New) The method of claim 22 further comprising estimating resources required to process said first processing job using said production device with said selected production options.

28.   (New) The method of claim 22 further comprising interrupting an existing processing job having a first arrived at priority, that is currently using a production device, such that another processing job can use said production device, said another processing job having a second arrived at priority different from said first arrived at priority.

29.   (New) The destination service of claim 24 further operable to estimate resources required to process said first imaging information with said selected production options.

8